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Student Affairs News

Student Affairs

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Student Affairs Newsletter, August 2015

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DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS



Dear colleagues,

Congratulations, we've finally arrived at the first day of classes! I appreciate very much the good work of Student Affairs staffers across campus. In preparing facilities, hiring and training new staff, answering questions, solving problems, and planning programs and activities, you have all pulled together to successfully roll out the red carpet for new and returning students. Great job!

In addition, thanks for helping with RAGBRAI, Iowa State Fair, Jumpstart, UNI Now, Residence Hall Move-In, Welcome Week, International Student Orientation, New Faculty Orientation and Panther Open Houses!

Here are some updates that might be of interest to you.

Important dates

August 2015

24 – Classes begin

24-28 – Welcome Week activities continue

24 – Center for Multicultural Education Welcome Back BBQ

24 – Interfraternity Council Fraternity Recruitment (through September

7) 26 – Graduate Student Information Meeting

27 – Panther Plot Harvest Festival

27 – Rod Library “Bash in the Stacks”

September 2015

2 – Military and Veteran Student Services Open

House 2 – Rainbow Reception

3 – Student Involvement Fair

9 – Board of Regents meeting (Cedar

Falls) 10-13 – Panhellenic

recruitment

16 – International Opportunities

Fair 21 – Job and Internship Fair

PLUS

Woods to lead student success, retention efforts for Student Affairs

I am pleased to announce that Dr. Kristin Woods, currently assistant dean of students, will expand her role and provide leadership to student success and retention initiatives for the Division of Student Affairs. Kristin will report directly to me and will serve as our primary liaison to Academic Affairs on programs and activities that support student retention and completion. Her new title is Director, Student Success and Retention. Join me in congratulating Kristin!

Long time staff at Registrar's Office retiring

A number of long time staffers at the Office of the Registrar have moved on to the next phases of their lives. Three have already retired with another planning for October.

Joy Thorson spent 38 years in Admissions and later the Registrar and retired July 1. Cindy Klodt spent 26 years in Continuing Education and Registrar and she retired May 15. Sharon Graber worked all 14 of her years in Registrar. Finally, Irene Elbert is still working but will retire October 2 with 39 years of service. I want to commend this group (and those still working!) for their competence and quiet dedication to the success of

students. Each of them has touched thousands of students in positive ways, though often outside the view of others. I know what you do, appreciate it, and thank you for it. Best wishes for happy retirements.

Staff updates

We have a number of new staff joining us this fall, other staff have new roles, and we have a notable departure. Please join me in congratulating all of them; here are a few in particular:

- Lyn Redington, director of Residence Life, has been named assistant vice president and dean of students at the University of Iowa. Congratulations, Lyn, and thank you for your outstanding 21 years of service and leadership to the University of Northern Iowa and the Division of Student Affairs.
- Dawnell Johnson is now serving as assistant manager at the Maucker Union Food Court.
- Shauna Hulsey is the new secretary at the Office of the Dean of Students. She joins us from the University of Florida where she worked in Student Legal Services.
- Dave Peerman has been named director of Residence Facilities for the Department of Residence. Dave holds Bachelor of Technology and Master of Business Administration degrees. He brings to the position over twenty years of facilities management experience, including ten years with Target Corporation in Cedar Falls.
- Jill Chelesvig has been named catering manager for the Department of Residence. Jill holds a Bachelor of Culinary Management degree. She brings to the position over ten years of catering experience, including five years as Catering Manager for Iowa State University.
- Sara Eberle has been promoted to manager of Rialto.
- Angela Meeter is the new quality improvement coordinator at the Student Health Clinic. Angela holds a Bachelor's degree in social work and brings over nine years of experience as Compliance Director for Cedar Valley Community Support Services.
- Tom Heiar has joined Admissions as an admissions counselor. He is a UNI alum with his master's degree in higher education from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. He worked for 3 years as an admissions counselor at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake.
- Norman Ferguson is our new coordinator for Military and Veteran Student Services. Norman has an MFA from the University of Georgia and a Bachelors' degrees from the University of Alabama Birmingham and the University of Maryland. Norman served five years in the United States Army most recently served as the local veteran's employment representative for the Georgia Department of Labor.
- Rosie Lang is now serving as the manager of Biscotti's.

Facility updates

- Planning for Lawther Hall modernization is continuing. The building is currently closed and is projected to re-open for fall 2017.
- Repair work will be undertaken on the Maucker Union roof to replace "pedestals" under existing concrete pavers and to repair some isolated leaking. This will begin in September and be completed in November.

New "Fit Class Pass" launched by Recreation Services

Users of the WRC have a new option thanks to a recent innovation by Recreation Services. Rather than sign up for and pay a fee to one particular class, participants can pay one fee and attend any class offered. The new Fit Class Pass is \$50 for students, \$60 for faculty/staff and \$70 for alumni/affiliates and is good for an entire semester. The 39 class sections currently offered include HITT, Cycling, Kick Boxing, Zumba, Hydro- Fit, Sculpt, Yoga, Pilates and others. The program excludes TRX, Tai Chi and Fit Club. Classes are offered throughout the day, Monday - Friday. Each class is first come, first served, so participants are urged not to be late. Questions? Contact Instructional Fitness Coordinator Dana Foster at 273-5859, via email at dana.foster@uni.edu, or at WRC 104.

Counseling Center launches after-hours service

The Counseling Center has launched a new after-hours service to make counseling assistance available to students 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The Counseling Center is contracting with ProtoCall, a company that specializes in providing after-hours services to university counseling centers and other mental health systems.

Students calling the Counseling Center at 273-2676 outside of the normal office hours of 8 am to 5 pm will have the option to press 2 to speak immediately to a mental health counselor. Any UNI student or anyone concerned about a UNI student may use the service.

The Counseling Center will continue to encourage students, staff, faculty, and parents to call during the day to arrange counseling or consult about any mental health concerns. The Counseling Center offers same day emergency appointments.

Fall offerings set for NCBI

UNI-NCBI is a team of volunteer students, faculty, and staff that sponsors campus-wide conversations on diversity inclusion and promotes skill building to help create a more welcoming campus for all. Please consider these options when planning your fall semester professional development calendar:

- ☐ NCBI Preview is a 45-minute interactive session for departments and organizations that serves to introduce important concepts and would hopefully lead individuals to engage later in a full one-day workshop.
- ☐ “Controversial Issues” is a four-hour workshop that helps participants constructively navigate potentially divisive, tough situations and conflicts in group and individual relations. Sessions will be held on Thursday, October 8, 9 am - 1 p.m. and Monday, November 16, 1-5 p.m.; snacks provided
- ☐ “Leadership for Diversity Inclusion” is a one-day workshop with a welcoming, highly interactive approach. It recognizes multiple aspects of diversity and acknowledges that every issue counts. It helps participants identify the impact of oppressive behaviors and attitudes on oneself and others. The next workshop is Wednesday, October 28, 9 am - 4 pm; lunch and snacks provided (must attend full day).

Planning underway for Center for Multicultural Education

Thanks to those who joined the “coffee and conversation” sessions relative to the future of the CME. Over 50 students, faculty and staff have participated in the three gatherings and generated great ideas for improving programs, policies and facilities. Provost Wohlpert and I will be meeting with student leaders next week for a similar discussion. Once we’ve heard from student leaders, we’ll set a formal planning process in motion. I will continue to keep you posted on the progress of this important initiative.

Strategic planning process continuing

Thanks to everyone who participated in the recent strategic planning meeting for the Division of Student Affairs. Special thanks to Provost Jim Wohlpert for offering comments over lunch and spending the afternoon with us. Our initial meeting was cut short due to an unexpected campus closing, so we will convene again mid-September to pick up where we left off.

CME launches new “First Friday” program

On the first Friday of each month, starting in October, the CME will host an evening celebrating the many cultures represented in the UNI student body. Each month will focus on an individual cultural heritage and will feature arts, crafts, music, food, clothing, and games. Open to all, this will be an opportunity for the UNI community to come together and learn about other walks of life in a casual and fun environment. There will be a total of six First Fridays during the 2015-2016 year. For more information, contact Jackie Rangel, 273-2250 or jackelin.rangel@uni.edu.

Newsletter evaluation completed

Thanks to summer intern Devin Moss, we have completed an evaluation of this newsletter. I appreciate everyone’s comments and suggestions and will work to incorporate them as we move forward. The more complete list of staff updates in this issue is one example. Please send me items you’d recommend for inclusion in our next newsletter.

Happy fall to all and thanks for all you do to help students succeed.

Terry Hogan
Vice President for Student Affairs